

A SHORT
A C C O U N T
OF THE PRESENT
Epidemic Cough and Fever.

IN A
L E T T E R
TO
Dr. DE LA COUR at BATH.

By WILLIAM GRANT, M.D.

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A SHORT
A C C O U N T
OF THE PRESENT

Epidemic Cough and Fever.

WITH regard to the present epidemic fever and cough, of which you desire an account, I can tell you, that I have carefully attended to the beginning, progress, and termination of it, and would have sent you my journals; but on comparison, I find it so completely discussed by Sydenham, that nothing remains to be added either in the diagnostics, prognostics, or method of cure.

I will therefore draw together in one continued series, and in his own words, all that Sydenham has said on this subject; by which you will see every thing

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regarding

regarding the nature, origin, progress, termination, and cure of this disease, in as masterly a manner as the subject does admit of. In my opinion, the explaining, correcting, and confirming the observations of our predecessors is more useful and as honourable as hunting after new discoveries, of which the truly learned will find but very few, whatever the ignorant may imagine.

In the year 1673, Sydenham first discovered the nature and cure of the putrid fever, by him called *variolous fever*; he found that this fever returned every summer afterwards, and was succeeded by the *cholera morbus* and bilious fever (by him called the new fever), as I have already fully explained in my Observations.

In the year 1675 these fevers were attended by a new symptom, viz. an uncommon degree of *stupor*, which frequently ended in a *coma*, and was for that reason by Sydenham called the comatous fever.

In

In the beginning of November of the same year 1675, this fever was complicated with a cough, which became quite epidemic, and was the same in every respect with the present epidemic disease; which has been preceded by the same bilious and *comatous* fever as Sydenham mentions, and is now accompanied with it, which will readily appear to any man who attends the present fever, and will take the trouble to read the following quotations from Sydenham, Dr. Swan's translation, sec. v. cap. 1. p. 200, where he begins the history of the putrid fever, and to shew the diseases with which it had been complicated, and the changes it had undergone; accordingly p. 201. No. 6.

“ This fever proceeded in this manner
 “ during the autumn, sometimes seizing
 “ the head, at others the bowels, every
 “ where raging under the appearance of
 “ symptoms peculiar to those parts, till
 “ the end of October; when the weather,
 “ which till now had continued in a
 “ manner as warm as summer, changed
 B 2 “ suddenly

“ suddenly to cold and moist ; whence
 “ catarrhs and coughs became more fre-
 “ quent than I remember to have known
 “ them in any other season. But it is of
 “ most moment to observe, that the sta-
 “ tionary fever of this constitution usually
 “ succeeded these coughs, and hence be-
 “ came more epidemic, and likewise
 “ varied some of its symptoms. For
 “ whereas some little time before, it at-
 “ tacked the head and bowels, now it
 “ chiefly seized the lungs and *pleura*,
 “ whence arose peripneumonic and pleu-
 “ retic symptoms ; though it was still
 “ precisely the same fever that began in
 “ July 1673, and continued without any
 “ alteration of its symptoms till the rise
 “ of these catarrhs.

“ These catarrhs and cough continued
 “ to the end of November, after which
 “ they abated, but the fever still remain-
 “ ed the same as it was before the ca-
 “ tarrhs appeared ; though it was neither
 “ quite so epidemic, nor accompanied
 “ with

“ with quite the same symptoms, these
 “ depending accidentally upon the ca-
 “ tarrhs.”

In chapter the fifth of the same section,
 p. 228. he gives a complete discussion
 of this cough, as follows:

“ In 1675 the season having continued
 “ unusually warm, like summer, till to-
 “ wards the end of October, and being
 “ suddenly succeeded by cold and moist
 “ weather, a cough became more fre-
 “ quent than I remember to have known
 “ it at any other time; for it scarce suf-
 “ fered any one to escape, of what-
 “ ever age or constitution he were, and
 “ seized whole families at once; nor was
 “ it remarkable only for the numbers it
 “ attacked (for every winter abundance
 “ of persons are afflicted with a cough)
 “ but also on account of the danger that
 “ attended it: for as the constitution,
 “ both now and during the preceding
 “ autumn, eminently tended to produce
 “ the

“ the epidemic fever above described, and
 “ as there was now no other epidemic
 “ existing, which by its opposition might,
 “ in some measure, lessen its violence,
 “ the cough made way for, and readily
 “ changed into the fever. In the mean
 “ while, as the cough assisted the consti-
 “ tution in producing the fever, so the
 “ fever on this account attacked the lungs
 “ and *pleura*, just as it had affected the
 “ head even the week preceding this
 “ cough ; which sudden alteration of the
 “ symptoms, occasioned some, for want
 “ of sufficient attention, to esteem this
 “ fever an *essential pleurisy* or *peripneu-*
 “ *mony*, though it remained the same as
 “ it had been during this constitution,
 “ *i. e.* since July 1673.

“ 2. For it began now as it always
 “ did, with a pain in the head, back, and
 “ some of the limbs ; which were the
 “ symptoms of every fever of this con-
 “ stitution, except only that the febrile
 “ matter, when it was copiously deposited
 “ in

“ in the lungs and *pleura*, through the
 “ violence of the cough, occasioned such
 “ symptoms as belong to those parts.
 “ But nevertheless, as far as I could ob-
 “ serve, the fever was the very same with
 “ that which prevailed to the day when
 “ this cough first appeared; and this like-
 “ wise the remedies to which it readily
 “ yielded plainly shewed. And though
 “ the pungent pain of the side, the diffi-
 “ culty of breathing, the colour of the
 “ blood that was taken away, and the
 “ rest of the symptoms that are usual in
 “ a pleurisy, seemed to intimate that it
 “ was an essential pleurisy; yet this
 “ disease required no other method of
 “ cure, than that which agreed with the
 “ fever of this constitution, and did no
 “ ways admit of that which was proper
 “ in the true pleurisy, as will hereafter
 “ appear. Add to this, that when a
 “ pleurisy is the original disease, it usually
 “ arises betwixt spring and summer;
 “ whereas the distemper we now treat of,
 “ begun at a very different season, and is
 “ only

“ only to be reckoned a symptom of the
 “ fever which was peculiar to the current
 “ year, and the effect of the accidental
 “ cough.

“ 3. Now in order to proceed in a pro-
 “ per manner to the particular method
 “ of cure, which experience shews to be
 “ requisite both in this cough and in
 “ those which happen in other years,
 “ provided they proceed from the same
 “ causes, it is to be observed that the
 “ *effluvia* which used to be expelled the
 “ mass of blood by insensible perspira-
 “ tion, are struck in, and thrown up-
 “ on the lungs, from the sudden stop-
 “ page of the pores by cold, and, by irri-
 “ tating the lungs, immediately raise a
 “ cough; and the hot and excrementitious
 “ vapours of the blood being hereby pre-
 “ vented from passing off by perspiration,
 “ a fever is easily raised in the mass;
 “ namely, when either the vapours are so
 “ copious that the lungs are unable to
 “ expel them, or the inflammation is in-
 “ creased

" creased by the adventitious heat arising
 " from the use of overheating remedies,
 " or too hot a regimen, so as suddenly to
 " cause a fever in a person who was al-
 " ready too much disposed to one. But
 " of whatever kind the stationary fever
 " be which prevails the same year, and
 " at the same time, this new fever soon
 " assumes its name, becomes of the same
 " kind, and in most particulars resembles
 " it; though it may still retain some
 " symptoms belonging to the cough,
 " whence it arose. In every cough there-
 " fore proceeding from this cause, it is
 " sufficiently manifest that regard must
 " be had not only to the cough, but
 " likewise to the fever that so readily suc-
 " ceeds it.

" 4. Relying on this foundation, I en-
 " deavoured to relieve such as required
 " my assistance by the following method:
 " If the cough had not yet caused a fe-
 " ver, and other symptoms, which, as we
 " said, usually accompany it, I judged it

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" sufficient

“ sufficient to forbid the use of flesh
 “ meats and all kinds of spirituous liquors,
 “ and advised moderate exercise, going
 “ into the air, and a draught of a cooling
 “ pectoral ptisan to be taken between
 “ whiles. These few things sufficed to
 “ relieve the cough, and prevent the fever,
 “ and other symptoms usually attending
 “ it. For as by abstaining from flesh and
 “ spirituous liquors, along with the use of
 “ cooling medicines, the blood was so
 “ cooled, as not easily admit of a febrile
 “ impression, so by the use of exercise
 “ those hot *effluvia* of the blood, which
 “ strike in, and occasion a cough as often
 “ as the pores are stopt by sudden cold,
 “ are commodiously exhaled in the natu-
 “ ral and true way, to the relief of the
 “ patient.

“ 5. With respect to quieting the
 “ cough, it is to be observed that opiates,
 “ spirituous liquors, and heating medicines
 “ used for this purpose are equally un-
 “ safe; for the matter of the cough be-
 “ ing entangled and stiffened thereby,
 “ those

“ those vapours which should pass off
 “ from the blood, in a gentle and gradual
 “ manner, by coughing, are retained in
 “ the mass, and raise a fever: and this fre-
 “ quently proves very fatal to abundance
 “ of the common people, who, whilst
 “ they unadvisedly endeavour to check
 “ the cough, by taking burnt brandy and
 “ other hot liquors, occasion pleuretic
 “ or peripneumonic disorders; and by
 “ this irrational procedure render this
 “ disease dangerous, and often mortal,
 “ which of its own nature is slight, and
 “ easily curable. Neither do they err
 “ less, though they seem to act more rea-
 “ sonably, who endeavour to remove the
 “ cause of the disease by raising sweat; for
 “ though we do not deny that sponta-
 “ neous sweats frequently prove more ef-
 “ fectual than all other helps in expelling
 “ the morbid cause, yet it is apparent
 “ that whilst we attempt to force sweat,
 “ we inflame the blood, and may possibly
 “ destroy the patient, whom we desire to
 “ cure.

“ 6. But it happens sometimes, not
 “ only when the disease has been unskill-
 “ fully treated, in the manner above de-
 “ scribed, but also spontaneously, at the
 “ beginning of the illness, or in a day or
 “ two afterwards, especially in tender and
 “ weakly persons, that the cough is suc-
 “ ceeded by alternate intervals of heat
 “ and cold, a pain in the head, back, and
 “ limbs, and sometimes a tendency to
 “ sweat, especially in the night; all
 “ which symptoms generally followed
 “ the fever of this constitution, and were
 “ frequently joined with a pain of the
 “ sides, and sometimes with a constrict-
 “ tion, as it were, of the lungs, which oc-
 “ casioned a difficulty of breathing, stop-
 “ ped the cough, and increased the fever.

“ 7. According to the best observation
 “ I could make, the fever, and its most
 “ dangerous symptoms, were best reliev-
 “ ed by bleeding in the arm, applying a
 “ blister to the neck, and giving a glyster
 “ every day. In the mean time, I ad-
 “ vised

“vised the patient to sit up some hours
 “every day, to forbear flesh meats, and
 “sometimes to drink small-beer, some-
 “times milk and water, and sometimes
 “a cooling and lenient ptisan. If the
 “pain of the side abated not in two or
 “three days, but continued very violent,
 “I bled a second time, and advised the
 “continuance of the glysters. But with
 “respect to glysters, it must be carefully
 “observed, either in this or other fevers,
 “that they are not to be long and fre-
 “quently used when the disease is in its
 “decline; especially in hysteric women,
 “and in men that are subject to the hy-
 “pochondriac disease; for the blood and
 “juices of such persons are easily chang-
 “ed, and soon agitated and heated,
 “whence the animal œconomy is dis-
 “turbed, and the febrile symptoms con-
 “tinued beyond the usual time.

“8. But to return to our subject;
 “whilst by this means we allowed time
 “that the blood might gradually free it-
 “self

“ self from those hot particles that were
 “ lodged in the *pleura* and lungs, all the
 “ symptoms usually went off in a gentle
 “ manner ; whereas when the disease was
 “ treated in a rough way, by giving abundance of remedies, it either destroyed
 “ the patient, or rendered it necessary to
 “ repeat bleeding oftener than the disease
 “ required, or would safely bear, in order
 “ to save his life. For though repeated
 “ bleeding answers every purpose in the
 “ true pleurisy, and is alone sufficient for
 “ the cure thereof, provided there be no
 “ hindrance from a hot regimen, and
 “ heating medicines; yet here, on the
 “ contrary, it sufficed to bleed once, or
 “ at most twice, in case the patient refrained from bed, and drank cooling
 “ liquors. And I never found it necessary to bleed more frequently, unless
 “ the symptoms relating to the *pleura*
 “ and lungs were much increased by
 “ some adventitious heat, and even in
 “ this case the practice was not wholly
 “ void of danger.

“ 9. Upon

“ 9. Upon this occasion I shall briefly
 “ deliver my sentiments with respect to
 “ a very trite and common opinion, viz.
 “ that a pleurisy is found to be of so ma-
 “ lignant a nature in some years, that it
 “ will not then bear bleeding, at least not
 “ so often as this distemper ordinarily
 “ demands. Now though I conceive
 “ that a true and *essential* pleurisy, which,
 “ as shall hereafter be observed, happens
 “ indifferently in all constitutions, does
 “ in all years equally indicate repeated
 “ bleeding; yet it sometimes happens
 “ that the peculiar epidemic fever of the
 “ year, from sudden alteration of the
 “ manifest qualities of the air, readily
 “ throws off the morbid matter upon the
 “ *pleura* and lungs, while the fever not-
 “ withstanding continues exactly the
 “ same. Wherefore in this case, though
 “ bleeding may be used to abate this
 “ symptom when it is very violent, yet,
 “ generally speaking, little more blood
 “ ought to be taken away than is re-
 “ quired by the fever whereon this symp-
 “ tom

“ tom depends; for if the fever be of a
 “ kind that will bear frequent bleeding,
 “ it may likewise be repeated in the pleu-
 “ risy, which is a symptom thereof: but
 “ if the fever will not bear repeated bleed-
 “ ing, it will be prejudicial in the pleu-
 “ risy, which will go off with, or last as
 “ long as the fever does. And in my
 “ judgment this was the case in the *symp-*
 “ *tomatic pleurisy* that accompanied the
 “ fever which prevailed here at the time
 “ the cough began, namely in winter
 “ 1675; and therefore I must observe,
 “ that whoever, in the cure of fevers,
 “ hath not always in view the constitu-
 “ tion of the year, inasmuch as it tends to
 “ produce some particular epidemic dis-
 “ ease, and likewise to reduce all the con-
 “ temporary diseases to its form and like-
 “ ness, proceeds in an uncertain and fal-
 “ lacious way.

“ 10. In the month of November of
 “ the above mentioned year, I attended
 “ the eldest son of Sir Francis Wyndham
 “ in

" in this fever. He complained of a pain
 " in his side, and the other symptoms
 " that attended those who had this dis-
 " ease. I bled him but once, applied a
 " blister to his neck, injected glysters
 " every day, gave him cooling ptisans
 " and emulsions, and sometimes milk and
 " water, or small beer, to drink; and ad-
 " vised his sitting up a few hours every
 " day: and by this method he recovered
 " in a few days, and a purge completed
 " the cure.

" 11. But it must be remarked, that
 " though these were the common symp-
 " toms which succeeded the cough, dur-
 " ing this winter, yet the cough, unat-
 " tended with these symptoms, was more
 " prevalent at the same time. But this
 " required neither bleeding nor glysters,
 " provided a fever was not occasioned by
 " a hot regimen, or heating medicines;
 " it sufficed to allow the benefit of the
 " open air, and to forbid the use of flesh,
 " wine, and such spirituous liquors, which
 " are apt to cause a fever."

In the month of July 1775 the putrid fever came on; was succeeded by the cholera morbus in August, and the bilious fever in September, as usual: this bilious fever however was attended with a degree of *stupor*, which went off with the other symptoms when properly treated; but was easily turned into a *coma*, when improperly treated, at any period of the disease.

About the end of October, I soon perceived that a cough became very common; which however, in most people, required little attention, for it was without fever: but being called to see Mr. S. H. I found that although the cough and tickling were perpetual, yet the confusion, *stupor*, and pain of the head and back, the degree of fever, and universal uneasiness constituted the serious part of the disease; I told him that it was the bilious and comatous fever of Sydenham, complicated with a cold, for which I directed the purging apozem.

Next

Next day I perceived that this purge had procured less relief than I expected; accordingly I directed ten ounces of blood to be taken away, and to repeat the apozem the following morning. After the bleeding he sweated copiously, as is common after bleeding, and after the second purge the febrile symptoms were so much abated, that the whole remainder of the cure was left to regimen, and some sal polychrest taken always at night, and sometimes night and morning, just to keep the body open.

In the mean time, Mrs. H. was suddenly seized with a dreadful fever, and many very threatening symptoms, particularly of the head and breathing; I could perceive that she had been infected from her husband, that the fever was therefore contagious, and would probably become epidemic, which was soon confirmed; for the next day all the family were seized, some more, some less violently, but of the same nature; and so

rapid was the progress of this distemper, that in the space of three weeks I believe I saw three hundred people ill of it in different degrees.

One proper bleeding, and one dose of the purging apozem relieved Mrs. H. and a frequent repetition of gentle purges, with proper regimen, finished the cure. It was to me very plainly neither more nor less than the epidemic cough of 1675, although some had run away with the notion of a new and wonderful epidemic cough and fever; which is too often the case in this town.

I was told of a gentleman, who mistaking this fever for an essential peripneumony, was too much and too often blooded; by which a prostration of strength was induced, which had almost deprived the world of a good man; and at the same time I was called to attend a friend of mine who had been four times blooded for the same disease before I was called in.

'The first and second bleedings relieved him very much; but after the last bleeding he was not relieved; a profuse colliquative sweating came on, which cooling regimen could not abate; and his pulse sunk so fast that I found it necessary to give him the bark for three days together: this soon moderated the sweat, restored the pulse, and enabled nature to perform coction and crisis: not that the bark seemed to counteract the contagion, but only proved a good tonic medicine to support the strength, which had been reduced, by large evacuations, below the proper standard.

Too frequent and too copious bleeding however was not the common error in treating this fever, but on the contrary, and in general, purging was too often neglected; for the vulgar are so fond of strong drink, and heating drugs, that they expect to cure all diseases, particularly coughs, by sweating only. Of these errors I saw a vast many; the first
was

was a stout young man who keeps an eating-house in Booker's Gardens: the consequence was, an essential pleurisy and peripneumony, to which was added a great degree of acrimony: this disease was tedious, and at last conquered with much difficulty; for the pulse became very soft after one proper bleeding and purging, although the pain in the side, and difficulty of breathing, still remained. To relieve these symptoms, cups were applied to the part, and afterwards blisters, while the body was regularly kept open by clysters, or soft purgatives; by which means he at last recovered.

There were a few to whom a critical sweat, in the very beginning, proved salutary: the first of these I saw was H. M. Esq. He was suddenly seized at the opera; his eyes inflamed, and his head was much affected, with all the symptoms of a violent *coryza*. That same evening he went into a sweat, with great relief; I promoted it, because I found it had procured

cured relief, and a purge the following morning carried off the fever: leaving a very mild catarrh, that was soon and easily cured. A more common mode was by a *diarrhea*; this was almost as frequent and salutary a discharge as by the cough: this evacuation, when promoted, sometimes prevented, and always relieved the cough; of these I saw very many.

During the whole month of October the Febris Anginosa of Huxham (which I have treated in the second part of my Observations, by the name of *Angina Erysipelatosa*) was very common, and had not subsided when the cough came in; so they were, and still are complicated in some cases: of these I saw several at both ends of the town. In such cases it became necessary to pay much regard to the anginous part of the compound disease; even the bark, and diaphoretics, became necessary in some of them, which never were required in the single coughs, properly treated from the beginning.

In

In some the offending matter fell upon the salivary glands, and brought on a species of swelling in the parotid and submaxillary glands, commonly called the Mumps; which however yielded to the same bleeding, purging, and blistering that were found so salutary for the cure of the cough.

I am now writing on the 24th day of December 1775. The mercury in the barometer is down $\frac{3}{16}$ below 29 inches; the thermometer as high as 60 degrees, it having rained all the morning, with a wind at East and S. E. Yesterday I lost an old maid servant of Mr. Franks in a comatous fever; left P. O. dying of the same fever; and T. D. so oppressed with *stupor*, that I can see the comatous fever still remains, and is likely to remain till the weather changes considerably. There are two of my acquaintance ill of the *Angina Erysipelatosa*; many have relapsed into the epidemic cough; and two were seized on the 21st, who had escaped it till that time.

Upon

Upon the whole I think I am warranted to say, that this present epidemic cough, is of the same nature with the epidemic cough of 1675; and will probably continue, as that did, till the inflammatory constitution puts a stop to it; as usually happens soon after Christmas.

With regard to the other epidemic cough mentioned by Sydenham, *viz.* that of 1679, although it also arose about the end of October, and yielded to a similar method of cure; yet it was preceded by, and complicated with a stationary intermittent, which had been the epidemic constitution of that and the preceding year.

You may remember that in the spring of 1755, an intermittent constitution took place here, which became quite epidemic in the autumn, and was complicated in the month of November with an obstinate cough, that did not readily yield to the usual method of treating the winter fever of Sydenham, but after proper evacuations was soon and safely cured by the bark, as I saw in many cases.

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I had

I had occasion to try the same method, in some cases this season, but with less success; so that I conclude the present stationary fever is not of the intermittent kind, which readily yields to the bark; but is the same bilious and comatous fever which we have seen ever since the beginning of last October, and has not, either when single, or complicated with this cough, agreed with bark as a febrifuge; although as a tonic medicine, towards the conclusion, and after proper evacuations, some have received benefit from the bark, even in the present epidemic.

In the following quotation you will find all that Sydenham says on the cough of 1679. Vid. p. 319. par. 41, &c.

“ In the following year, *viz.* 1679,
 “ these intermittents re-appeared at the
 “ beginning of July, and increasing every
 “ day, proved very violent and destructive
 “ in August. But having already treated
 “ of these at large, I shall only observe,
 “ that they gave way to a new epidemic,
 “ which proceeded from the manifest
 “ qualities of the air in November.

“ 42. For

" 42. For at the beginning of this
 " month a cough arose, which was more
 " epidemic than any I had hitherto ob-
 " served; for it seized nearly whole fa-
 " milies at once. Some required little
 " medicine, but in others the cough oc-
 " casioned such violent motions of the
 " lungs, that sometimes a vomiting and
 " a *vertigo* ensued. On the first days of
 " the disorder, the cough was almost
 " dry, and the expectoration not consi-
 " derable, but afterwards the matter in
 " some measure increased. In short,
 " from the smallness of the expectora-
 " tion, the violence of the cough, and
 " the duration of the coughing fits, it
 " seemed greatly to resemble the *convul-*
 " *sive* or *hooping cough* of children; only
 " it was not so severe. But it was at-
 " tended with a fever and its usual con-
 " comitants, in which particular it ex-
 " ceeded the convulsive cough, for I ne-
 " ver knew that accompanied with those
 " symptoms.

" 43. Though coughs are common at
 " the beginning of winter, yet every
 " body

“ body wondered to find them so very
 “ frequent this year; which I conceive
 “ proceeded chiefly from this cause: the
 “ month of October having been wetter
 “ than usual, (for it seldom ceased rain-
 “ ing) the blood, corresponding with the
 “ season, drank in a abundance of crude,
 “ watery particles; by reason that per-
 “ spiration was stopt upon the first com-
 “ ing of the cold, whence nature endea-
 “ voured to expel them, by means of a
 “ cough, through the branches of the
 “ pulmonary artery, or, as some will
 “ have it, through the glands of the
 “ windpipe.

“ 44. When there is occasion for me-
 “ dicine, I am sure the cure is best at-
 “ tempted by evacuation, namely by
 “ bleeding and purging; for the redun-
 “ dant serous particles cannot be so com-
 “ modiously expelled by any other me-
 “ thod, as by the evacuations, which
 “ greatly empty the veins.

“ 45. For as to *pectorals*, setting aside
 “ their pleasing the patient, I own I do
 “ not conceive how they can contribute

“ to remove the cause of the coughs,
 “ since their whole operation seems to
 “ consist, either in thickening the matter
 “ when it is too thin to be expectorated,
 “ or in attenuating it, when, by reason
 “ of its vicidity, it comes up with dif-
 “ ficulty. This I certainly know, that
 “ it is lost time to give such medicines,
 “ and that sometimes the blood is so im-
 “ poverished by the retention of the fe-
 “ rous particles which are prejudicial to
 “ nature; and further, that the lungs,
 “ irritated by the violence of the cough,
 “ are so shaken by the great and almost
 “ continued motion, that a consumption
 “ is often occasioned thereby, from
 “ which the patient should be freed by
 “ hastening the cure. Nor are sudorifics
 “ much safer; for sometimes they cause
 “ a *fever*, and sometimes also the par-
 “ ticles of the blood, which are easily
 “ inflamed, are so thrown upon the *pleura*,
 “ that a pleurisy is occasioned, which
 “ happened to great numbers in the
 “ course of this epidemic cough, and
 “ was very dangerous.

“ 46. Ac-

“ 46. Accordingly I took away a moderate quantity of blood from the arm, and applied a sufficiently large and strong blister to the neck, in order to make a revulsion of part of the peccant matter. Afterwards I exhibited a lenient cathartic every day, made of an infusion of *sena* and *rhubarb*, with *man-na*, and *solutive syrup of roses*, till the symptoms abated considerably, or a perfect recovery ensued: Or if draughts were disagreeable, I directed two scruples of the greater *pil. cochia*, to be taken every morning at five o'clock, sleeping upon them.”

In the year 1755, I was writing the chapter upon the ague, and treated that cough according to these directions of Sydenham; but did not succeed in curing it with ease and dispatch, till the month of January 1756; when I discovered the salutary effect of the bark in this particular cough; which seemed to return periodically by regular paroxysms.

Lime-street,
Dec. 24, 1755.